



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 47, No. 3

Third Quarter, 2011

Whole No. 180

6 Cent Surcharge Die #125533 by Irwin Gibbs, Postal Stationery Editor

Recently the Smithsonian National Postal Museum located in its vault a 6c wood block surcharge die, similar to the 1c, 2c, and 3c vertical surcharge dies used on CZ postal stationery.

The die, illustrated in Fig. 1, was prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the surcharging was to be done by the Panama Canal Press at La Boca, as was the case for the 1c, 2c, and 3c surcharges.



Fig. 1 6c Die number 125533 prepared for but never used to revalue postal stationery

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Mail Sale Announcement

Material for the 2011-2012 CZSG Mail Sale will be accepted between Sept. 1st and Oct. 30th, 2011. This Sale will focus on Canal Zone material other than covers, though covers may be included as part of a shipment consisting mostly of stamps and other related material. The CZSG hopes to run a Sale the following year that is predominantly cover-oriented. Only CZSG members, including family of deceased members, are permitted to submit material. Please include an inventory and include estimated values of any items not listed in *Scott*. The Sale catalogue should be available early in 2012, and the Sale will close in late February or March. Send material to arrive no later than Oct. 30th to the Sale Manager:

Richard D. Bates, Jr.
P.O. Box 40583, Palisades Station
Washington, DC 20016-0583

New Wrong Font Varieties Discovered by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

There are two new discoveries of previously unknown wrong font varieties on sharp A overprinted flat plate stamps (CZ No. 84-95 and J18-20) to report. These are on second printings of stamps delivered in the March 22, 1926, shipment to the Canal Zone.

The existence of wrong font varieties on the first printing of the sharp A overprint is well established. Both CANAL and ZONE in the wrong font are found on the stamps printed in the shipment to the Zone on May 19, 1925, and can be found on Scott Nos. 85-88, 90, and J18-20, which are in the vertical format, and on Nos. 93-95, which are in the horizontal format.

To date no examples of second printing stamps with wrong font ZONE had been found. The first new discovery to report is a wrong font ZONE on the second printing of No. 86. In this

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Fig. 1 Second printing block of No. 86 with wrong font ZONE in pos. 82

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The Canal Zone Philatelist

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One column, two inches \$15.00 or \$40/year if same text

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No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from:

CZSG Pub. Office - Richard F. Murphy
1489 Oakhurst Dr., Mt Pleasant, SC 29466
richardmurphy167@gmail.com

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are preferred for figures of stamps or covers; however enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

CZ Stamps = Canal Zone Stamps, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = The Canal Zone Philatelist

Entwistle = The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992

French = Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

Scott = Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps, current edition.

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, **Volume No.**, Pages.

Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.

U.S. MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY CD

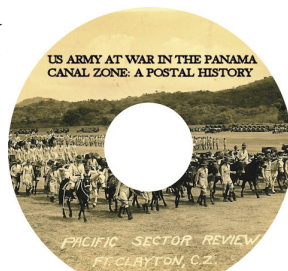
A U.S. military postal history of the Army in the Panama Canal Zone from 1910-1947. Fourteen chapters fully illustrated and a strong bibliography on a CD in PDF for \$20 postpaid. \$2 from each sale will go to the CZSG and \$2 to the ICC. Contact:

Wayne Worthington

Box 2878

Springfield, VA 22152

waynew@erols.com



Canal Zone Troops on Galapagos

by Wayne Worthington

Military postal historians recognize Army Post Office (APO) 662 as a relatively uncommon cancel. Canal Zone cover collectors, however, often overlook this special piece of militaria associated with the defense of the Panama Canal.

The assignment of U.S. military forces to the Galapagos Islands early in World War II was an important part of expanding the defense perimeter for the Panama Canal.

Part of the rationale for creating the Panama Mobile Force (PMF) in the Panama Canal Zone as WWII approached was to relieve the Panama Canal Department (PCD) from tactical ground command and permit it a larger focus that included commanding U.S. Army units assigned to the Canal defense, but serving outside the Zone.

Advances in war-fighting technologies (airplane, submarine, and aircraft carrier) made defending a fixed facility like the Canal harder, so the U.S. War Department required the defense perimeter to be continually expanded beyond the Zone. Thus bases were established in Talara, Peru; Salinas, Ecuador; Guatemala; Costa Rica; and Panama outside the Zone, as well as the Galapagos Islands, the subject of this article.

On December 11, 1941, Ecuador made available to the United States the Galapagos Islands and a base in Salinas for the establishment of forward military bases.

The U.S. Government negotiated with Ecuador to build bases on the Galapagos Islands, and the Naval Construction Battalion (CB) Detachment 1012 built a seaplane base there. The Army Air Corps constructed two airfields on South Seymour Island of the Galapagos for medium-range bombers and fighter escorts. Then on May 9, 1942, the PCD established an expanded ground force garrison to provide area defense for the Navy and Army Air Corps units assigned to provide early warning of enemy approach.

Fig. 1 shows an Army Air Corps Detachment cover mailed in June 1942. The cover bears an Albrook Field CDS. Mail was returned to the Canal Zone by the best available means, and although I do not know the link for Navy mail, Army and Army Air Corps mail was generally flown to Albrook and distributed by ground transportation to the soldier's parent unit on the Zone.

The key forces assigned to the Islands in 1942 were aircraft units to provide short-range air attack on seaborne incursions and anti-submarine aircraft. Local ground-based defense was provided by Battery D, 1st Coastal Artillery (HD); Companies E and M, 150th Infantry Regiment; Battery G, 196th Coast Artillery (AA); and a detachment of Company B, 805th Engineers (AVN). Additionally, a variety of small support units like Quartermaster supply, laundry and bakery detachments, and Medical and AG Postal detachments were part of the early warning sites.

The cover shown at Fig. 2 is from a Detachment of Headquarters Battery of the 196th Coastal Artillery. This unit was an element of the 2nd Battalion, the parent organization of Battery G, 196th, which was an anti-aircraft unit protecting the airfields.

The 150th Infantry Regiment disbursed units throughout the PCD area of operations. For Galapagos defense, Companies E and M left the Zone to provide guard duty and ground defense. Fig. 3 shows a cover from M

Company with a July 1943 APO CDS.

In January 1943, the Islands garrison was increased with a Fighter Squadron, some utilities Engineers, and the mission-critical 687th Signal Aircraft Warning (AW) Company. The 687th would establish five AW Stations across the Islands and link with the Army Airways Communications System (AACS) to provide 24 x 7 communications and warning back to the Zone. Fig. 4 shows a 687th cover (thanks to CZSG member Ken Flagg).

I have seen "AACS" on APO covers and until I met Mr. Clarence "Duke" Glazier, I didn't know what it was. The Galapagos AACS team was a 50-man group of Army Air Corps communications personnel assigned to operate the system. Duke was a member of that team and passed away in 2009.

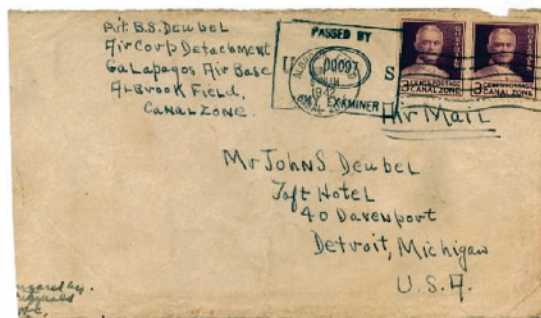


Fig. 1 Army Air Corps Detachment cover mailed June 1942



Fig. 2 Detachment of Headquarters Battery of the 196th Coastal Artillery



Fig. 3 Cover from M Company with a July 1943 APO CDS

By the summer of 1943, many changes took place on the Galapagos. The Batteries of the 196th Coastal Artillery were replaced by HQs, C and D Batteries of the 932d Coastal Artillery. In August, E Company of the 150th Infantry Regiment was replaced by F Company and the Anti-tank Company of the 65th Infantry Regiment, which had reported to Ft. Clayton, CZ, from Puerto Rico. Fig. 5 shows the latter unit still stationed at Ft. Clayton prior to its assignment to the Galapagos Islands.

Although forces on the Galapagos Islands did not see action while there and the duty was characterized as boring and tedious, it was vital nonetheless.

Bibliography

AG Historical Section, *History of the Panama Canal Department Volumes I-IV*, United States Army, 1947.

AG Historical Section, *Panama Mobile Force & Security Command*, Panama Canal Zone, 1946.

Interview with Mr. Clarence "Duke" Glazier, WWII AACS-Galapagos member

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq67-3.htm>

<http://www.galapagos.to/TEXTS/USAF1947.HTM>



Fig. 4 687th cover



Fig. 5 65th Infantry cover prior to assignment to Galapagos

For Sale CANAL ZONE SPECIMENS Irwin Gibbs

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David Leeds 1917-2011

Our good friend and fellow philatelist, David J. Leeds, passed away on April 18, 2011, at the age of 94. David was a philatelist of the first order, a scholar, and an individual who relished being with his fellow stamp collectors. I met him over 30 years ago and counted him among my good friends thereafter. He and Arlene became a fixture in my life when I was attending UCLA. I will always remember the kindness the two of them showed me, including David driving down from Brentwood to Santa Monica to take me to the monthly Los Angeles Stamp Club meetings. Afterwards about 15 of us would go to a Jewish deli and talk about stamps. To this day when I have matzoh ball soup, it brings back memories. Arlene always made me welcome in their home and was a gracious lady putting up with David and me dominating the dinner conversation with talk of stamps, covers, and exhibiting. While Arlene was not a stamp collector, she went with David to all of the shows, encouraged him in his collecting, and helped to edit his writings.

David was born on Friday, April 13, 1917, in Colon, Republic of Panama. His father, Nathan Levy, was not only a two-bar Roosevelt Medal holder, but also was a major player in Isthmian philately from his arrival in 1907 until 1937, when he retired to Houston, TX. Nathan owned the Canal Zone Stamp Co. in Gatun, and one can still find many of the covers he prepared in collections and dealer stocks around the world. As a child David helped his father sort stamps, put together packets, and prepare first flight and first day covers. I remember David telling me how his father had heard that there was a 5 cent Arosemena stamp printed with the head of Cordoba. David, his father, his mother, and his sister sat around the kitchen table going through thousands of CZ No. 40 looking to see if by chance they had one. Late one evening his mother exclaimed she thought she had found one. She had, and it is today known as the "Gatun" copy.

David attended Gatun Elementary School, graduated from Cristobal High School in 1935, and moved to the United States to attend the University of Texas, Austin, majoring in geology. In 1941 he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served in the Pacific. He remained in the Air Force reserves and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. During this time he married Arlene, with whom he had four children. After the war David and Arlene moved to Los Angeles where he was a highly respected seismic engineer.

Stamps and covers continued to be a major part of David's life. He would always joke that he had never met a stamp he didn't like. One of his first major collections and exhibitions was Cuba, for which he won several gold medals. However, the stamps of his childhood remained near his heart and he continued collecting Canal Zone and Panama. His Canal Zone was displayed many times and won a number of gold medals. He had so much material he found it difficult to fit it into 10 frames; as a result, he was known for putting as much material on each exhibit page as possible. In 1990 he was the first person presented with the Canal Zone Study Group's Silver Medal for Exhibitor's.

David ran one CZSG mail sale and was the Editor of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* for a number of years. His last project, unfortunately not completed, was a book on

Isthmian aerophilately. He was a major contributor to the Canal Zone and Panama sections of the American Air Mail Society's handbook. He also submitted a large number of cancellations for both Lawson Entwistle's *Canal Zone Postal Markings* and Jim Cross' book on Panama postal markings. David was, we believe, the last surviving charter member of the CZSG.

David sold much of his better Panama material in the late 1990s and his Canal Zone collection was auctioned by Matthew Bennett on October 1, 2004. That catalog will remain a standard reference tool for years to come. The rest of his Panama and Canal Zone material was sold in 2005 and 2009. Much of the Panama stock was given to the nascent Panama Philatelic Club to promote stamp collecting. David would have liked that, as he was always concerned about the future of Isthmian philately.

In his last years health problems plagued him. However, he was collecting until the very end. When I last visited with him in 2009 he had a table full of soaked stamps that he was sorting by country. I mentioned that I had found a first day cover of a Panama overprinted airmail stamp, Scott C6. I had been hunting for one for many years and he immediately told me that he and his father had only made 10 first day covers of that stamp and he believed they were the only ones to do so.

David will be greatly missed by his friends, his family, and his philatelic colleagues.

Brad Wilde

6 Cent Surcharge Die

continued from page 25

The 6c die was to be used to overprint surplus 5c postal cards (S27), since there was no 11c air mail postal card in existence at that time. The 11c rate was adopted on March 2, 1974, and raised to 14c on December 31, 1975.

For whatever reason, none of the postal cards was overprinted and the die was never used. No 11c or 14c air mail postal cards were issued. In fact, air mail postal cards exhibiting proper use of either the 11c rate or the 14c rate during the correct time period are very scarce. An example of an 11c card was illustrated in 1999 [CZP 35:24 (1999)]. One 14c postal card with the rate properly paid has been illustrated in the *Philatelist* [CZP 36:33 (2000)]; it may be the only one in existence. The 14c rate only applied for about ten days before the separate air mail rate for post cards was eliminated.

Thanks to Daniel Piazza and the National Postal Museum for providing the image of the die, and to Tom Brougham and George Campbell for comments on rates and usages.

WANTED

#12

Stages I, II, III, & IV
CZSG Nos. 12.Aa, 12.Ab, 12.Ba,
12.Bb, 12.C, 12.D, 12.Ea, & 12.Eb

#13

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Preliminary Sketch for Scott No. 146

by Gary B. Weiss, Richard D. Bates, Jr.,
and Tom Brougham

In 1948, Executive Secretary Wang approved a stamp to commemorate the West Indian workers who helped in the construction of the Canal. After approval, Meade Bolton submitted several designs. The plans for this stamp were placed on hold for several years; the Governor approved the stamp in 1951 and one of Bolton's designs was chosen and sent to the BEP.

The pencil sketch shown here (Fig. 1) was found in the George Brett holdings. The drawing measures 9.9 x 11.7



Fig. 1 Pencil sketch for Scott No. 146

cm and is on a sheet of tracing paper 20.3 x 26.6 cm with upper corners cut off. The style of the drawing, especially the perforated border, is very similar to the Bolton drawings for the Gold Rush Centennial (Scott Nos. 142-145) sold as lot 389 in the 36th CZSG Mail Sale. It is not signed or dated but is almost certainly by Bolton; the holdings included lengthy communications between Bolton and Brett.

This essay differs from the issued stamp in many ways. Perhaps the most striking is the denomination; the essay is 5¢ while the issued stamp was 10¢. The text differs from the stamp in both placement and content. The artwork is a crude version of the accepted design. The other designs by Bolton may be in the Smithsonian holdings and will be reported if found. Ideally, some will be signed and dated. Although this is the last Canal Zone stamp issued that was designed by Bolton, the sketch was prepared several years before the stamp was issued. Some of his later designs appeared on stamps issued before the West Indian workers stamp, so it may not have been the last of his designs that was used.

No 100th Anniversary Stamp

If the letter received by several members is a correct indication, there will be no USPS stamp commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal. The letter from the manager of Stamp Development of the USPS dated August 31, 2011, stated that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee decided not to recommend stamp issuance to the Postmaster General.

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The best of the Canal Zone philatelic auction action during the second quarter, April 1 - June 30, was offered by a surprise entrant, the Canadian firm of Eastern Auctions, Ltd. While not expansive, their presentation did contain some rarely seen errors including the CZ 115b as shown on page 170 of *CZ Stamps*. Otherwise, submissions were meager, indeed.

The first dollar amount furnished below is the combined total of hammer price plus commission. The last value, in parentheses, is the catalog value from the 2011 *Scott Catalogue*.

- 1 var., PANAMA 15mm long, OG, H, barely F margin copy \$546 (\$700) Eastern
- 15 var., PANAMA 15mm long, TG, H, F+ \$2645 (\$2900) Eastern
- 39e, inverted center and ovp't reading down, OG, NH, VF w/ margin \$679 (\$650) HR Harmer
- 48, dried OG, H, VF+ \$374 (\$500) Eastern
- 48, OG, H, F-VF \$295 (\$500) HR Harmer
- 86e, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, barely F, \$219 (\$350) Eastern
- 115b, CANAL only, OG, HR, F in pair w/ normal \$1208 (\$2603) Eastern
- C5, F, on cover (crease o/w F) w/ 5 proper Colombian stamps, Scadta service Cali, Colombia 2/17/30 and Cristobal, CZ 2/20/30 to Austria \$100 (\$n/a) HR Harmer
- CO11, OG, NH, F-VF \$1208 (\$1250) Eastern
- J3, OG, H, F \$288 (\$1000) RA Siegel

The names and addresses of the three auction houses that presented these lots are shown below.

Eastern Auctions, Ltd.
P.O. Box 250
Bathurst, N.B.
Canada E2A 3Z2

H.R. Harmer
18061 Fitch
Irvine, CA 92614

R.A. Siegel
60 E. 56th St.
New York, NY 10022

Scott 118 Question

During a recent meeting of CZSG members, a question was posed regarding the ½c Benjamin Franklin Presidential issue of 1939, Scott No. 118. It is known there were 5 printings of this stamp, differentiated by the plate numbers used. The 4th and 5th printings were produced on electric eye plates. The 4th printing was made on plate nos. 22470 and 22471; the 5th printing on nos. 22470, 22471, 22898 and 22899.

It is known that three forms were used to overprint these stamps, with the second being used to overprint the 4th printings of both the ½c and 1½c Presidentials. A third form was used exclusively for the 5th printing of the ½c issue (CZSG #118.E). Also, the 4th printing is known from all four pane positions, while the 5th is known on UL, UR and LR panes only.

The question is how to determine whether an example with plate number 22470 or 22471 is from the 4th or 5th printing.

Bob Loeffler

Nathan L. Levy and David J. Leeds by Alan P. Bentz

This article was triggered by two events: one was the announcement of David Leeds' death; the other was a cover that showed up at PHILATELIC SHOW 2011 in Boxboro, MA. The cover was addressed to David Levy.

David Leeds was introduced to philately at an early age. His father, Nathan L. Levy, was a stamp dealer in Gatun. Fig. 1 shows the corner card cachet he used in 1924.

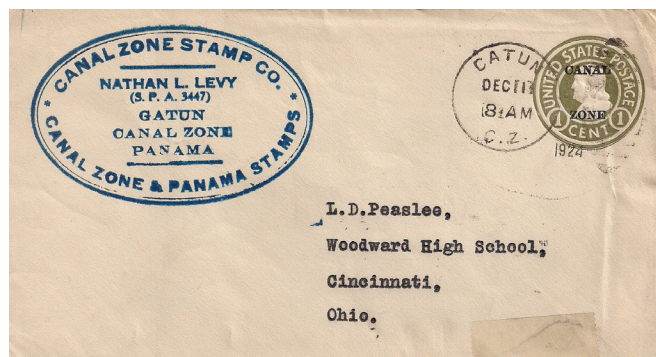


Fig. 1 Levy stamp company cover of 1924

In 1926, a sesquicentennial stamp was issued by the U.S., and the Canal Zone issued its overprint the same day. The cover in Fig. 2 was sent by Nathan Levy to himself as a FDC without a cachet.

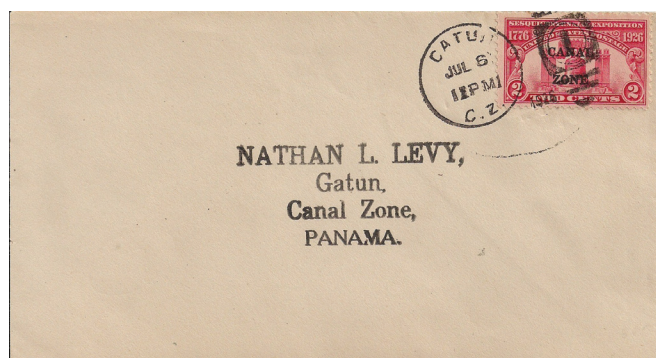


Fig. 2 A self-addressed FDC from 1926

Another notable cover to Levy is shown in Fig. 3. Addressed to Levy in Bocas del Toro, it was flown by Robert Marstrand in the aircraft "3 de Noviembre" – after Panama's Independence Day. This stamp was issued for the start of airmail between Panama and the western provinces and its use was valid for only two days – November 28-29.



Fig. 3 Panamanian FFC

Nathan Levy's son David was born on April 13, 1917, in Colon. As a boy, David would skip school and meet incoming passenger ships and sell the tourists souvenir booklets of stamps. An example is shown in Fig. 4.



Fig. 4 Souvenir booklet – a single folded sheet

At the recent philatelic show, I came across the cover shown in Fig. 5 addressed to the 16-year old David Levy. It was cancelled aboard the *D. Portland*, a Hamburg-Amerika ship and has a Cristobal receiving stamp on the back dated September 11, 1933.

David became an avid philatelist, no doubt because of his father's influence. Because of his Canal Zone roots, he specialized in CZ philately, and was Editor of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* from the second quarter of 1992 through the 4th quarter of 1997 (for 23 issues).

David had changed his name to David Leeds when he entered the Army in WWII. He became a prominent seismologist, working in the Canal Zone and later in California, where he consulted in the field into his late 80s.

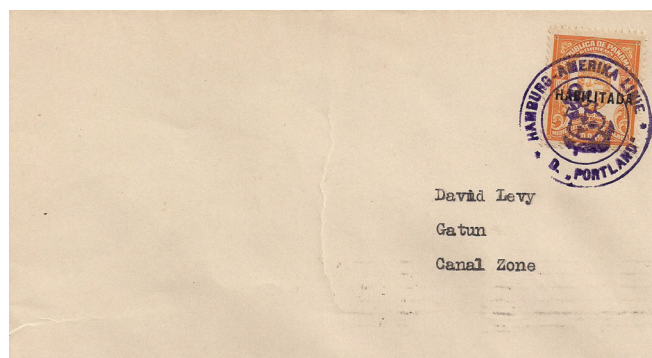


Fig. 5 Letter David sent to himself

His CZ philately was recognized when he was invited to the unveiling ceremony for the U.S. stamp showing the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. It appeared as one



Fig. 6 David Leeds and Alan Bentz with plaque

stamp in the Celebrate the Century Series sheet for the decade beginning in 1910. It was issued in 1998, shows the S.S. *Ancon* making the first commercial transit of the Canal, and is assigned U.S. Scott No. 3183f. A plaque with a picture of the stamp, and an inscription to him on the date of the unveiling of the stamp (see Fig. 6), was presented to him in San Diego on January 26, 1998, a few days before the first day of the stamps.

David Leeds died on April 19, 2011. He donated about 140 boxes of philatelic materials to the Western Philatelic Library in Sunnyvale, CA. He donated his seismic records (about 3000 pounds of boxes) to the Earthquake Research Library at UC Berkeley.

Broken O in Overprint on J19

In addition to the discovery of the wrong font CANAL on the second printing of J19 described elsewhere in this issue, the block containing positions 89-90 and 99-100 from the same pane illustrated shows two additional features worth noting in the *CZP*. This block, illustrated in Fig. 1, has a broken O at the top on pos. 100 UR. The existence and location of this variety have been confirmed by Gary Weiss on a second pane of J19.

The other feature to note is that the overprint on the stamps in the first nine vertical columns is quite heavy, giving rise to the description normally used for the second printing stamps as having an “overprint worn, with thick letters” as is illustrated by the two stamps to the left of the block in the figure. But the overprint on the tenth column, as illustrated by the two right-hand stamps, is much thinner, appearing more like a first printing example of J19 rather than the second printing example that it actually is. This observation has been made previously by Wallace Cleland in an article about J19 [*CZP* 36:1,4-5, 2000].

R.D. Bates, Jr.

Wanted for Research Study

Scans of position pieces showing positions 51 through 92 of the second printings of Scott Nos. 86 and J18-9. Positions of multiples can be identified by presence of selvage or straight edges. Scans of UR plate blocks of Scott Nos. 93 with plate number F17446 are also sought.

Enlarged photocopies are also acceptable. Please do not send stamps without contacting me first.

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

P.O. Box 40583, Palisades Station

Washington, DC 20016-0583

bates@georgetown.edu



Fig. 1 Block of J19 second printing from pos. 89, 90, 99, 100 UR with broken O in pos. 100

StampShow 2011

The CZSG meeting at StampShow in Columbus, OH on August 13, 2011 was not heavily attended, as only five members were present. We talked about the successes of the NOJEX 2011 show, and then about several new discoveries. These include two new second printing wrong font varieties, described elsewhere in this issue, that create questions about how they may have arisen vis-à-vis the known positions of the 1st printing. We also discussed an example of a plate variety, an extraneous wedge-shaped imperfection, on the 30c Bison (No. 93) not previously described in the Canal Zone literature, which will appear in a future *CZP*.

Gary showed some interesting covers he purchased, which had official mailing labels from many departments, some with rubber handstamps in the cc. Hopefully Gary will write this up with illustrations.

Gary also showed a cover from the postmaster in Balboa Heights, not an official cover but postal stationery with added postage, most of it ordinary usage, but one a perf P. It was suggested this too could be worth illustrating in the *CZP*, or if not there, on the CZSG website.

One member showed a cancel he thought was not in

Entwistle. But after discussion, it seemed possible he had not looked in the right place. This pointed out that the mechanism for tracking postal markings has been lost because the whereabouts of Lawson's files, notes, and drawings are unknown.



StampShow meeting attendees from left: Richard Bates, Dickson Preston, Ralph Rust, Gary B. Weiss, Dave Fredericks, and John Clement

Study Group News

Secretary's Report Mike Drabik

P.O. Box 281, Bolton, MA 01740-0281
Email: czsgsecretary@gmail.com

As of August 31, 2011, the membership of the Canal Zone Study Group is as follows:

There are 561 members who have had their 2011 membership dues received and recorded.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members:

Joe Boburchuk, CZSG # 2653 Bill Denby, CZSG # 2655
Paul Panunto, CZSG # 2654 John Bent, CZSG # 2656

Correction to the last listing of new CZSG members:

Nancy Godfrey's CZSG # should be listed as 2652

We are very happy to welcome back to the CZSG as a dues paying member: Roy Bettis, CZSG # 1851

We have been notified of changes of addresses for the following CZSG members:

Tom Saathoff, CZSG # 552 Bjarne Breinbjerg, CZSG # 2193
Finn Stjernholk, CZSG # 961 Dr. David Malinov, CZSG # 2362
James Seeley, CZSG # 1094 Steven Scoville, CZSG # 2544

The following members have resigned from the CZSG:

Dr. Wendell E. Brown, CZSG # 647 Bruce I. Wingate, CZSG # 2090

There are still 40 CZSG members who were listed in my report in the last issue of the *CZP* as not current in payment of their 2011 CZSG membership dues. These members will be formally listed as resigned from the CZSG in the next issue of the *CZP* unless their 2011 CZSG dues are received.

It is with great sadness and condolences to their families that I recognize the passing of our fellow CZSG members:

Dr. Martin Ackerman, CZSG #1005

Rev. Peter W. Adgie, CZSG # 2119

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President's Report

David Zemer

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Earliest Known Usage Project Started

The CZSG has started to update our Earliest Known Usage (EKU) list of Canal Zone stamps using the CZSG Catalogue Number and we hope to eventually append EKU for stationery from the UPSS to it.

Tom Brougham has volunteered to manage this project and is happy to send the latest list by email to anyone requesting it. Contact Tom at Tom@CanalZoneStudyGroup.com if you are interested in participating or are just curious about EKUs.

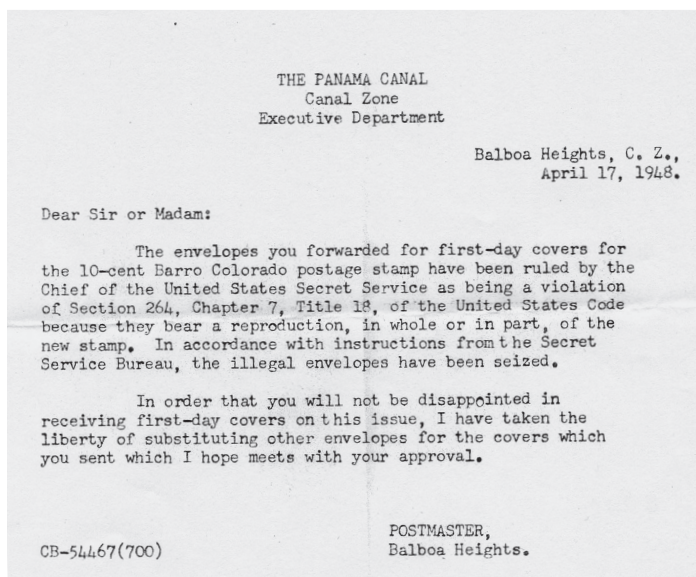
This project promises to be a lot of fun and each of us now has a chance to find an EKU and have bragging rights – at least until another member finds an earlier one.

When it appears that few if any new EKUs are being added to the list, then we expect to publish it in the *CZP*.

Confiscated Barro Colorado First Day Covers by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

A topic that has been waiting in the wings concerns an item sent to me by member Henry Hespeneheide. It is a confiscated FDC - specifically a cover used to replace cacheted envelopes for Scott No. 141, the 10c Barro Colorado commemorative stamp, which were seized by authorities because the image of coatimundi on the cachet was too close to that on the stamp itself. The cacheted envelopes were replaced with uncacheted envelopes and FDCs prepared using them, which were sent to the addressees on the confiscated covers. An insert with a brief explanation of what happened was included.

The message inside the cover, from the Balboa Heights Postmaster, is shown in Fig. 1.



**Fig. 1 Letter from Postmaster, Balboa Heights
found inside replacement cover shown in Fig. 2, p. 35**

Philatelic Foundation “Certificate Search” now Online

In a project funded by a grant from the David T. Beals III Charitable Trust, Bank of America Trustee, the Philatelic Foundation has started the process of putting the photographs and details found in its PF certificates online. As of Summer 2011 they had uploaded the information from 133,000 certificates, 2000 from Canal Zone, onto their searchable database at www.philatelicfoundation.org. They include many of our gems and counterfeits detected with good quality photos.

The search engine allows the user to search by different variables including country, year, Scott Number, Type (such as stamp, cover, essay), and gum/ no-gum. In addition there is a powerful key-word search available.

The viewer can also copy and paste the data and photos onto his or her own computer for later reference.

The Philatelic Foundation has provided the philatelic community with an extremely valuable reference source of certificates from 2000 to just a few months ago and we look forward to one day seeing all 475,000 of their certificates online.

This action on the part of the Canal Zone government was quite controversial at the time, but now may be largely forgotten.

In the George Brett files in the National Postal Museum, there are some typed notes George prepared at the time that may shed some light on what happened.

On 4/3/48

Oberg, Division of Civil Affairs

Viewed new stamp; UR panes plate 159908 (no F or other marking noted). Perf. all around, guide lines at usual places. Looks quite nice. Unruh mentioned that perfs. frequently ran off at one end (vert. perfs.) but that horizontal perfs. were uniformly good. (Shipment date 3/2/48?)

Oberg said approximately 10,000 covers had been received for servicing and it was now planned to use machine dies for cancelling at four offices; Balboa, Balboa Heights, Ancon, and Cristobal; and they and the rest would have single-line rubber stamps (enclosed in a simple box frame) “First day of Issue.” Circular out giving details on this stuff but did not have an extra one for me as yet.

Said that two types of cacheted covers had been received bearing reproductions of the stamp in the one case, and of the central portion only in another case. The latter printed in grey and the former in various colors - - - the last having been made by the baking process that simulates engraving. P.O.D. had been contacted and reference given by them to section 264, Chapter 7 Title 18 of the U.S. Code. (Did not get to check on this.) This affected around 500-600 covers so far. The Secret Service had been contacted and a

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Earliest Uses of Canal Zone Postage Due Stamps by Gary B. Weiss

The early Canal Zone postage due stamps were issued without ceremonies and no first day covers were prepared. Stamps were not sold to collectors. For Scott Nos. J1-J24, this article presents the available information on the earliest recorded uses. First Day covers were prepared for J25-J28 and these are included for completeness. First days are not known for J25a, J27a, or J29.

The first Postage Due Series (Scott Nos. J1-J3) was probably issued on March 11 or 12, 1914. Two unpaid covers from Kingston, Jamaica, dated March 7 and 9 to Cristobal, received March 9 and 12 receiving markings, respectively. The 10c postage due was paid with bottom plate number strip of four J1 (5510) and three J2 (6703) or bottom selvage single of J3, all with Cristobal March 14, 1914, cancellation (Figs. 1 and 2). These two covers were discovered by the late George Stilwell.



Fig. 1 J1-2
on cover



Fig. 2 J3 on cover; date in marking on back confirms 1914 use

The second Postage Due Series (Scott Nos. J4-J6) was issued on March 29, 1915. The earliest recorded use, an underpaid parcel front with three J4, one J5, and one J6 all cancelled Cristobal March 30, 1915 (Fig. 3) represents a second day cancel.



Fig. 3 J4-J6 on cover



Fig. 4a J9 single



Fig. 4b Pair of J10

The third Postage Due Series (Scott Nos. J7-J9) was received on November 12, 1915, and issued that month. A single of J9 off cover known with a socked on the nose first day cancel is shown in Fig. 4. Early uses of J7 and J8 are not recorded and any such examples should be reported. I would prefer not crediting an item as the earliest use if it was not used close to the issue date.



Fig. 5 J11 block



Fig. 6 J15-J16 blocks



Fig. 7a J19 block



Fig. 7b J23 early use
from plate block of 6

The fourth Postage Due Series (Scott Nos. J10-J11) was issued in December 1919. The earliest recorded uses are an off cover pair of J10 and a block of J11 with January 12, 1920 cancels (Fig. 4b and 5). These were reported on p. 12 in the 2008 *CZSG Handbook* No. 15, *Type III Overprint Issues of the Canal Zone* by Tom Brougham. There is also a cover (probably from the top of a stack of due covers) with J11 (and J9) with December 29, 1919 cancel from a local mailing but no date cancel on the dues. While this represents an earlier date, the exact date for this cover is unknown.

The fifth Postage Due Series (Scott No. J11C) was issued after September 21, 1922; see Weiss, Leeds, and Crumpacker, *CZP* 33:13-14, 1997. Cancels lack year dates. I have May 28 and believe it is a 1923 use. The cancels are hard to read against the dark stamp and reader help is solicited. No examples that are attributable to 1922 are known.

The Flat A Postage Dues (Scott Nos. J12-J14) were issued July 1, 1924. I am unaware of any July or August uses. A block of J12 is known with a September 4, 1924 cancel. September 16 (no year); examples are known for J13 and 14.

The Provisional Flat A Postage Dues (Scott Nos. J15-J17) were issued March 2, 1925. Off cover blocks of J15 for March 7, 1925 and J16 for March 4, 1925 have been recorded (Fig. 6).

The Sharp A Postage Dues (Scott Nos. J18-J20) were issued June 24, 1925. A block of J19 with a June 30, 1925 cancel is known (Fig. 7a).

The Temporary Postage Dues (Scott Nos. J21-J24) were prepared in December 1929 and issued as needed. J21 was issued March 20, 1930; J22 on October 18, 1930; J23 on December 1, 1930; and J24 was issued on December 16, 1929. A left side plate block of the 5c (J27) used December 4, 1930 is known (see Fig. 7b). This is the closest use to an issue date for the set. Early covers of this set are rare; most off cover used stamps have undated cancels.

The permanent series (Scott J25-J28) was issued on January 2, 1932. Covers were prepared with single stamps and sets of the four stamps. Only examples from Gatun and Madden Dam (and a single from either Balboa or Diablo Heights) are known to the author. Scott J29 is believed to have been issued April 21, 1941; the earliest uses are cacheted "first day covers" cancelled May 10, 1941 at Diablo Heights (See Weiss, *CZP* 35:32, 1999). The first day of the dry printings of the postage dues is unknown. The earliest recorded use of J25a is December 21, 1959 on an off cover pair of stamps from Fort Clayton. The earliest recorded use

of J27a is August 23, 1958 on cover from Australia to Balboa. These two items were reported and illustrated in black and white by Weiss, *CZP* 34:30, 1998. These items are now shown in color on the CZSG web site.

Table 1 EKUs for CZ Postage Due Stamps

Scott No.	Description	FD	Earliest Use
J1-J3	1c, 2c, 10c	March 11 or 12, 1914	March 14, 1914
J4-J6	1c, 2c, 10c	March 29, 1915	March 30, 1915
J7	1c	November 12, 1915	*
J8	2c	November 12, 1915	*
J9	10c	November 12, 1915	November 12, 1915
J10-J11	2c, 4c	December 1919	January 12, 1920
J11C	1c	1922	*
J12	1c	July 1, 1924	September 4, 1924
J13	2c	July 1, 1924	*
J14	10c	July 1, 1924	*
J15	1c	March 2, 1925	March 7, 1925
J16	2c	March 2, 1925	March 4, 1925
J17	10c	March 2, 1925	*
J18	1c	June 24, 1925	*
J19	2c	June 24, 1925	June 30, 1925
J20	10c	June 24, 1925	*
J21	1c	March 20, 1930	*
J22	2c	October 18, 1930	*
J23	5c	December 1, 1930	December 4, 1930
J24	10c	December 16, 1929	*
J25-J28	1c 10c	January 2, 1932	January 2, 1932
J29	15c	April 21, 1941	May 10, 1941
J25a	1c	*	December 21, 1959
J27a	5c	*	August 23, 1958

* unknown

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Confiscated Barro Colorado FDCs

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reply was expected by Monday the 5th. It was thought possible that SS would want to confiscate these covers. CZ was planning to notify the people concerned so they could forward new covers. Idea considered by Oberg of not releasing design in future but tried to play that down.

The replacement cover is shown in Fig. 2. What would complete the story nicely is to see what the offending covers looked like. If any member should have one, presumably unused, I would appreciate receiving a scan of it at bates@georgetown.edu.



Fig. 2 Replacement first day cover for Scott No. 141

New Wrong Font Varieties Discovered

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case, as shown in Fig. 1, it is also in a block with a straight edge, indicating it is from a LR pane, and that it occurs on pos. 82. In the second printing of 86, some panes had the overprint added at an angle, prompting collectors at the time to save examples as collectable varieties. That is true of examples from the UL corner, pos. LR 1 and sometimes LR 2, which may show the variety CANAL only assigned catalogue No. 86h. But it also created interesting varieties, though not separately listed in Scott, from the LL corner, which had only part of the words CANAL and ZONE on the stamps. In some cases, the overprint reads ZONE CANAL; some have overprints shifted enough that only part of the overprint is on the left stamp.



Fig. 2a Zone from pos. 82

Fig. 2b Zone from pos. 92

Fig. 2 Overprint on pos. 82 and 92 showing wrong font ZONE at top, and in 2a; normal in 2b. Blue color has been lightened to facilitate examination of the overprint.



Fig. 3a Block of J19 second printing including pos. 51-2, 61-2, 71-2, 81-2, and 91-2 with CANAL in pos. 51 in wrong font; Fig. 3b Overprint on pos. 41, 51, 61 showing wrong font CANAL on middle stamp. Image has been brightened and red color has been lightened to facilitate examination of the overprint.

Though wrong font ZONE overprints are more difficult to spot than the wrong font CANAL, a careful examination of ZONE in pos. 82 and ZONE in other positions in this block, as shown in Fig. 2, reveals the following: the opening to the left of the bottom serif on the Z is much wider, and seems squared off on pos. 82; the vertical bar on the E is less thick; the LR tip of the N and the bottom of the O appear to project lower than the horizontal line across the bottoms of the other letters; and the inner portion of the O is wider, but the overall width of the O is smaller. All these features are like those on the first printing wrong font ZONEs, but are less evident because of the heavier printing of the letters on the second printing.

Previously, wrong font CANAL overprints on the second printings had been reported in 2004 on J20 [CZP 40: 41-3] where it is found in some left plate blocks in pos. UL 51, and for No. 86 both in the LL plate block (also pos. 51) and in position 51 with a SE at L on LR panes, first reported in the same article in 2004, and with additional information in 2005 [CZP 41: 6-7 (2005)] and 2007 [CZP 43: 29, 32-3, 39 (2007)].

The other newly discovered example is on J19, where careful scrutiny of a full UR pane revealed that the CANAL on pos. 51 is in the wrong font. A block of ten cropped from a scan of the full pane is shown in Fig. 3a. The wrong font variety is on the stamp in the upper left corner. It, like the previous discoveries of wrong font CANAL on the second printings, is harder to spot than the wrong font varieties on the first printing, because the letters in the overprint are much heavier, thus obscuring some of the easy-to-spot traits of the wrong font. The characteristics were reviewed in CZP 43: 29, 32-3, 39 (2007); the C is the easiest letter to use to identify the wrong font, as the C is nearly closed on the wrong font but remains quite open at the right on the normal overprint. This can be seen in Fig. 3b, which is a comparison of the CANAL overprint on pos. 51 with those around it on the block in Fig. 3a. Though the difference in the C is most pronounced, differences in the heavier diagonal and vertical strokes of the other letters are discernable as well. This now establishes that wrong font CANAL exists on each of the second printing stamps in the May 19, 1925, shipment with 9 mm CANAL ZONE spacing. It has not been found on either the only printing of No. 84 or the second printing of J18, both of which were shipped at the same time, but which have an 11 mm CANAL ZONE spacing.

Each of these new varieties and its position on the overprint form has been confirmed by the discovery of a second example.

I am indebted to the support and scrutiny provided by Tom Brougham, Jim Crumpacker, Dick Salz, and Gary Weiss, who helped to search for wrong font varieties, and to examine scans to confirm that these are examples of second printing wrong fonts. There is still a good deal to be learned about the origins of these second printing wrong fonts, and Tom Brougham, Gary Weiss, and I will be examining all available data about positions and printings of the wrong font CANAL and ZONE overprints to develop a reasonable scenario for how these second printing varieties may have occurred. We will also direct collectors where to search for additional examples of these and possibly yet to be discovered varieties.

We encourage any reader with an example of a second printing on 86, J19, or J20 from pane or block with an identifiable location including pos. 51 or 82 to send a scan (600 dpi or better), or, less desirably, a photocopy for us to examine. We may ask that the item itself be sent to one of us to examine. (See ad on page 11.) We appreciate any help members can offer.